

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/496,549	02/02/2000	King	1996P07613US05

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

EXAMINER
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A. Qureshi

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2662

3

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

32. (Currently Amended) A method for routing a digital data call received on a subscriber line to a destination ~~where the digital data call is received on a subscriber line connected to a termination unit communicating with~~ external to a switch in a central office, the method comprising:

acquiring the digital data call ~~at the termination unit~~ on the subscriber line at least one of a digital line unit, a remote line termination unit, a remote data terminal, a subscriber line interface circuit, or a digital subscriber line module;

terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line at the acquiring digital line unit, remote line termination unit, remote data terminal, subscriber line interface circuit, or digital subscriber line module; and

routing the digital data call to the destination on a channel external to the switch and bypassing the switch.

33-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 32 further comprising:

assigning a logical identifier to the digital data call; and

associating the call with the subscriber line.

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4

38. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for routing a digital data call received on a subscriber line to a destination ~~where the digital data call is received on a subscriber line~~ connected to a termination unit communicating with ~~external to~~ a switch in a central office, the apparatus comprising:

a line termination unit connected to the subscriber line, where the line termination unit comprises at least one of a digital line unit, a remote line termination unit, a remote data terminal, a subscriber line interface circuit, or a digital subscriber line module, the line termination unit further comprising means for acquiring and terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line; and

a channel for routing the digital data call from the termination unit to the destination, where the channel is external to the switch and bypasses the switch.

39. (Previously presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 38 further comprising:

means for assigning a logical identifier to the digital data call; and

means for associating the call with the subscriber line.

40. (Cancelled)